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CIA 6 (Random House)

CIA Effort to Censor Book Told

Publisher Tells
of Calls From
McCone, Aide

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CPYRGHT

The two top officials of the Central Intelligence Agency personally contacted a New York publisher in an apparent effort to suppress or censor a forthcoming book on the nation's secret intelligence operations, the Minneapolis Tribune learned Monday.

A source at Random House, New York publishing firm, confirmed yesterday that both John McCone, director of CIA, and Lt. Gen. Marshall S. Carter, deputy director, complained about the contents of "The Invisible Government," to be published later this month.

THE BOOK, written by Washington newspapermen David Wise and Thomas Ross, deals with the secret intelligence operations of the United States, including the CIA role in the 1961 "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba.

The Random House source, who asked not to be quoted by name, said, "Mr. McCone did get in touch with us, and so did Gen. Carter."

He added: "It seemed to me that the purpose was either the suppression or the altering of the book we were about to publish."

The two officials objected, the source said, "for the most part on rather general grounds."

THERE WERE "at various times claims of error," the publishing official said, "and we asked twice that they give us a list of any errors. They said they would send it to us. They never have."

McCone and Carter did complain, the source said, that publication of the book would be harmful to "national security." But they did not allege that its publication would violate any security classification of information, he added.

The public information officer for CIA, Paul Chretien, refused yesterday to confirm or deny that any CIA official had contacted Random House in an effort to suppress or change the book.

"I HAVE NO comment on that," Chretien said when the Tribune asked whether any such calls had been made. "There will be no comment," he added.

A newspaper account published here yesterday quoted "officials" as complaining that the Wise-Ross book disclosed the names of some CIA agents.

The Random House source said this was "nonsense."

"We named no CIA agents that had not previously been named in public someplace else—in newspapers, printed transcripts of hearings, court records," the spokesman said. "Dozens of names were withheld voluntarily from the public through an enemy would presumably have had

no more trouble in learning them than the authors did, simply because we wanted to leap over backward in not revealing any names not previously on the public record."